

Mck Measure B passes, MCSD moving forward

MAD RIVER UNION
McKINLEYVILLE – McKinleyville property owners voted to continue to tax themselves last week, approving Measure B by a wide margin.

Renewal of the tax lets McKinleyville maintain its current level of services, and keep and improve many of its hard-won facilities around town.

McKinleyville Community Services District (MCSD) area property owners cast votes weighted by the proportional financial obligation of each ballot. The results were:

- Yes: \$131,927.12, or 63 percent
- No: \$76,378.29, or 37 percent

Measure B's renewal brought a heavy sigh of relief at the MCSD, which feared having to reduce services and close facilities without it.

"MCSD would like to thank all the residents who

participated in the Measure B vote," write MCSD General Manager Pat Kaspari. "Thanks to you we will be able to make the investments we need to repair and upgrade the Sheriff's Office and maintain all of our Parks facilities from the ball fields and parks, to our Senior Center, Library and Teen Center. We look forward to continuing to work with the community to provide recreational programming for the youth of McKinleyville and maintaining the quality of life that our community clearly values."

The measure's approval again demonstrated that residents are willing to make personal sacrifices in return for solid public benefits. In 2020, during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, Arcata's Measure A parks and open space property tax was also approved, 79.79 to 20.21 percent.

❖ ARCATA CITY COUNCIL

Gaza demands heard, shelter aid approved

Kevin L. Hoover
MAD RIVER UNION

ARCATA – With homelessness and housing on the agenda and Gaza protesters filling Council Chamber, the stage was set for a raucous Arcata City Council meeting last week. There, impassioned oratory plus lengthy applause, off-mic yelling and issues with protest signs helped push the meeting to more than five-and-a-half hours in length.

The council heard, but didn't act on demands to endorse a cease-fire resolution for Gaza. It voted to cautiously proceed with just one of the two housing proposals before it, loaning \$150,000 to Danco Communities for predevelopment studies of affordable, mixed-use housing at 1622 Old Arcata Road, the site known as Roger's Garage. It also declared a shelter crisis that could help sustain the Safe Parking program, and voted to release \$30,000 in funds for Arcata House Partnership to help establish this year's Extreme Weather Shelters.

COUNCIL ❖ PAGE 4



ON THE RUN The Six Rivers Running Club's Blue Lake Fish Hatchery Run has been an annual tradition since 1998, and is just one of many running events held by the club. Sunday's run saw Hatchery Road filled with dozens of runners (and spectators) of all ages. See the run's results at 6rrc.com/FishHatchery23. PHOTOS BY MATT FILAR | UNION



SUNDAY RUN



CUNA CLEANUP CREW



NORTHERN LIGHTS CUNA's (Comunidad Unida del Norte de Arcata/Community United North Arcata) monthly Clean the Sidewalk event saw more than 15 community members scrubbing Valley West's sidewalks Sunday morning, including, above right, Vice Mayor Meredith Matthews and City Councilmember Kimberley White. Volunteers meet at Valley West Park on Hallen Drive. Contact CUNA at (707) 633-3867 (English) or (707) 633-8831 (Español) PHOTOS VIA KIMBERLEY WHITE

County sign regs draw doubts, lawsuit threat

Daniel Mintz
MAD RIVER UNION

HUMBOLDT – A draft county ordinance regulating signs and billboards has hit choppy waters and a lawsuit threat, prompting Planning Director John Ford to consider a rewrite.

The draft ordinance was described as being potentially illegal during a Nov. 2 Planning Commission hearing.

Associate Planner Jacob Dunn described the ordinance's section on billboards as "contentious" because there's debate

about "the legality of this language."

That's because the ordinance requires building permits for maintenance of billboards – a provision that's arguably at odds with state law that allows their repair and rebuilding without local government involvement.

Commissioners were presented with alternatives to the language, including getting rid of the permitting requirement. There's public support for the permitting, however.

Commissioner Sarah

SIGNS ❖ PAGE 4

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